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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 15, 2005

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Ms. Kathleen Clarke
Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Clarke:

I am writing to you regarding the Air Combat Command (Air Force) Over-The-Horizon Backscatter (OTH-B) Radar Transmitter site located in Christmas Valley, Oregon. I have recently been notified that the Air Force is preparing to return this site to the stewardship of the Lakeview District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as stipulated in the original transfer agreement.

Because of this agreement, the Air Force did not consider the Christmas Valley property for an Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) project for the production of renewable alternative energy as recommended by the National Energy Policy. The Air Force is pursuing a renewable energy production EUL at its other OTH-B facility in Maine.

Although the Air Force has not completed its environmental assessment for the removal of scrap external radar equipment, I strongly urge you to support retention of all remaining energy transmission-specific infrastructure (i.e., access roads, high-energy transmission lines, and support buildings) at the Christmas Valley OTH-B until such time as the site can be evaluated for alternative energy production potential.

In 2003, the BLM identified the Lakeview planning unit as one of top twenty units in the West with a high potential for the development of three or more renewable energy resources: wind, biomass, and geothermal. Taking into account this favorable ranking, along with the extensive infrastructure already in place at the Christmas Valley OTH-B, I believe that the site merits further study for potential alternative energy production.

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As our nation focuses on ways to increase America's energy independence from foreign oil, it is worth taking the time to leave such a valuable infrastructure in place until it can be determined if alternative energy generation potential exists at the site. I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,



GREG WALDEN
Member of Congress

Cc:
Deputy Chief Alton Chavis, HQ ACC/CEVP
Oregon State Representative George Gilman
Commissioner Brad Winters, Lake County Oregon